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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,019	11/30/2001	Chikashi Nakanishi	Q67517	2975
7590 12/11/2003				
Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20037			EXAMINER KISHORE, GOLLAMUDI S	
			ART UNIT 1615	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/980,019	NAKANISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gollamudi S Kishore, PhD	1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims included in the prosecution are 1-24.

Specification

1. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Instant claims recite 'microliposomes'; however, instant specification and the dependent claim 2 recite nanometer sizes. The term, micro is commonly used to denote sizes in microns. Clarification is requested.

It is unclear from claim 2 whether the nanometer sizes recited are for liposomes or the saccharide slurry.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1- 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lenk et al (5,082,664).

Lenk et al disclose a process of preparation of liposomes. The process involves injecting a solution of phosphatidylcholine into an aqueous solution containing a saccharide. The liposomes are lyophilized (abstract, col. 3, lines 55-57; col. 6, lines 62-65; col. 9, lines 32-49; Examples, Example 1 and 3 in particular).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-4, 7, 10-12, 15-16, 19, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lenk et al cited above.

As pointed out above, Lenk et al disclose a process of preparation of liposomes. The process involves injecting a solution of phosphatidylcholine into an aqueous solution containing a saccharide. The liposomes are lyophilized (abstract, col. 3, lines 55-57; col. 6, lines 62-65; col. 9, lines 32-49; Examples, Example 1 and 3 in particular). What is lacking in Lenk et al is the teaching of the entire claimed range of the saccharides, lipid to solvent ratios. However, in view of the guidance provided by Lenk et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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art to vary the amounts of saccharides or the solvent or the lipids to obtain the best possible results.

8. Claims 3-4, 7, 10-12, 15-16, 19, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DAUC (J6 0007-934) in combination with either Szoka (5,077,057).

DAUC discloses a process of preparation of liposomes by kneading a phospholipid with an aqueous solution containing 0.28 M glucose (abstract). What are lacking in DAUC are the teachings of the injection of a solution of the phospholipid into the aqueous solution of glucose.

The reference of Szoka shows formation of liposomes when a solution of the phospholipid is injected into an aqueous solution (abstract, Examples and claims). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a solution of a phospholipid and injecting it into an aqueous solution of a saccharide since the reference of Szoka shows that the liposomes are formed even when the solutions of phospholipids are mixed with the aqueous solutions. DAUC does not teach of the entire claimed range of the saccharides, lipid to solvent ratios. However, in the absence of showing unexpected results, it is deemed obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to manipulate these parameters to obtain the best possible results.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gollamudi S Kishore, PhD whose telephone number is 703 308 2440. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM- 4 PM, alternate Friday off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on 703 308 2927. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1234.



Gollamudi S Kishore, PhD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1615

GSK